

Appl. No. : 10/078,283
 Filed : February 14, 2002

REMARKS

By way of summary, Claims 1, 2, 4, and 6-9, and 19-35 were pending in this application, with Claims 10-18 having been canceled by the Examiner in a *Notice of Allowability* mailed March 24, 2005. Claims 1, 2, 32, and 33 are canceled herein. Claims 4, 19, and 24 are amended herein. Claims 36-45 are added herein. Accordingly, Claims 4, 6-9, 19-31, and 34-45 are pending for consideration.

In the Office Action, Claims 6-9, 34, and 35 were allowed and Claim 24 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base and intervening claims. Claim 24 has been rewritten in this manner. Accordingly, Claim 24 is in condition for allowance. Claims 4 and 19 have been rewritten to depend from allowed Claim 6. Claims 20-23 and 25-31 depend from Claim 19. Accordingly, Claims 4, 19-23, and 25-31 are in condition for allowance.

New Claims 36-45 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 6 are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as Claim 6.

Accordingly, allowance of Claims 4 and 19-33, and 36-45 is requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections and the Examiner's assertions regarding what the prior art shows or teaches, even if not expressly discussed herein. Although changes to the claims have been made, no acquiescence or estoppel is or should be implied thereby; such amendments are made only to expedite prosecution of the present application and are without prejudice to the presentation or assertion, in the future, of claims relating to the same or similar subject matter. Applicants respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be issued at the earliest opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

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